Galena Sidewalk Assessment

2021



Completed by:



Introduction

The Galena sidewalk assessment was completed by Blackhawk Hills Regional Council (BHRC) staff and made possible through U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding for COVID-19 response and recovery. The goal of this assessment is to build upon the 2015 Sidewalk Deterioration Study that was completed by MSA Professional Services. 2021 findings will aid the City of Galena in prioritizing sidewalk maintenance and replacement needs on the perimeter of the downtown core.

The sidewalks surveyed include:

- Park Ave from US 20 to Adams St
- Jefferson St from Park Ave to the railroad
- sections of the path network within Grant Park
- Bouthillier St from Park Ave to Depot Park
- US 20 from Park Ave to Main St
- Bench St from Main St to Meeker St
- Franklin St from Bench St to High St
- Meeker St from Bench St to the railroad (including the pedestrian bridge)
- the pedestrian walkway on the northwest side of the Galena River (including the pedestrian bridge to Grant Park)

BHRC staff conducted surveys in October 2021, focusing on observed conditions of concrete sidewalks similar to the methods used in the 2015 survey. See Appendix A for routes surveyed in 2015 and 2021. Data regarding Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance was also collected. The guidelines used for the survey are the US Access Board's proposed <u>Public Rights-of-Way</u> <u>Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)</u>. While in draft form, they are considered current best practice and are anticipated to be formally adopted as the enforceable standards in spring 2022. Although ADA accessibility was reviewed, we recommend that the City complete or update a full <u>self-evaluation</u> and <u>transition plan</u> for needed accessibility improvements.

Data Collection

Sidewalk condition data was collected through a survey developed in ArcGIS Survey123. For each sidewalk deficiency, a georeferenced point was created in the survey with an associated observation type, description, and photo(s). See Appendix B for survey questions. The table below lists the observation type categories and examples of each. In addition to sidewalk conditions, it was also noted whether sidewalks were missing from a section or side of the street.

Observation Type	Examples
Permanent sidewalk obstruction	Obstructions, such as a utility pole, that reduce the passable sidewalk width to less than 4 feet or the vertical clearance to less than 6.7 feet
Temporary sidewalk obstruction	Obstructions, such as a low hanging branch or overgrown shrubs, that reduce the passable sidewalk width to less than 4 feet or the vertical clearance to less than 6.7 feet
Narrow sidewalk	Sections of sidewalk that are less than 5 feet or less than 4 feet without passing space every 200 feet
Missing curb ramp	

Curb ramp issue	Condition or accessibility issues with curb ramps, such as vertical faults at transitions between road and sidewalk or lack of detectable warning strips
Surface condition	Deficiencies with the concrete surface, such as cracking, spalling, or heaving
ADA non-compliance	Accessibility issues that fall outside the above categories, such as vertical faults greater than $1/2^{"}$ or cross slopes greater than 2%
Other	Not observed in this survey, but would account for issues outside of listed categories, such as snow piled on the sidewalk.

Data Analysis

Data collected were analyzed through the ArcGIS Survey123 app, and georeferenced points of observed deficiencies were overlaid on a map of the surveyed routes in Google Earth. A qualitative approach, which considered both the number and severity of deficiencies was used to develop a ranked map. For example, a vertical fault greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ " was considered less problematic to the overall condition than a series of panels with surface deterioration and heaving. The grading scale used for the ranked map matches the 2015 grades ("excellent" to "very poor") to give a basis of comparison, however, the 2015 ranking used a more nuanced approach; it tabulated sidewalk condition down to the number of panels and square footage in each condition ranking. Appendix C shows a map of the 2021 graded routes, and Appendix D shows the 2015 graded routes.

The most common sidewalk deficiency was vertical fault greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ " at sidewalk panel joints. Sidewalk panel cracking was less common, but observed throughout the surveyed routes. Severe surface deterioration with missing pieces of sidewalk was observed less frequently.



Vertical fault at 513 Park Ave



Cracking along S Bench St

Surface deterioration at 800 Park Ave

An interactive map with the surveyed points and associated photos can be viewed through the <u>ArcGIS Survey123 Map Viewer</u>, and a static map showing the sidewalk deficiency points can be found in Appendix E. A shapefile of the georeferenced points with associated survey records is also provided along with this report for viewing in Google Earth.

Recommendations

As the City of Galena is already aware from past sidewalk assessments, prioritization of repair and replacement should look at a number of factors. The severity of condition issues, use (both volume and type of population (i.e. young students, seniors)), and whether the sidewalk section provides a critical connection should be considered.

Areas that may warrant consideration for prioritization include sidewalks along Bouthillier St that connect to Depot Park and the Galena River trailhead and two "very poor" segments along Park Ave that would present serious challenges for individuals with disabilities. The City may also want to consider the range and spill-over foot traffic from the downtown core when looking at conditions along Bench St.

In the future, the City should consider surveying sidewalks along key corridors such as the walk to the U.S. Grant Home, connections to grocery stores, and routes to school. BHRC also recommends that the City complete or update its ADA self-evaluation and develop a transition plan for accessibility improvement needs. The New England ADA Center offers an <u>Action Guide for State and Local Governments</u> on how to conduct a self-evaluation and develop a transition plan. The website also offers sample documents and self-evaluation forms.

This assessment should broaden the understanding of the sidewalk network needs within the City. Building upon this assessment with additional surveys will help the City in its efforts to prioritize improvements and expand the high quality walkability seen in its downtown core.

SURVEY LEGEND 2015, MSA 2021, BHRC A N 1000 ft

Appendix A. Galena Sidewalk Survey Routes

Appendix B. Galena Sidewalk Survey Questions

Observation Type

- Permanent Sidewalk Obstruction
- Temporary Sidewalk Obstruction
- o Narrow Sidewalk
- Missing Curb Ramp
- Curb Ramp Issue
- ADA Non-compliance
- Surface Condition
- Other: _____

Observation:

Collection Date & Time: _____

CONDITIONS LEGEND EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR POOR VERY POOR NO SIDEWALK A N 1000 ft

Appendix C. 2021 Galena Sidewalk Conditions

Appendix D. 2015 Sidewalk Conditions (MSA)



Appendix E. Galena Sidewalk Deficiency Points

